

Government of the District of Columbia
Executive Office of the Mayor



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MAYOR FENTY ANNOUNCES POLICY INITIATIVES TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

WASHINGTON, DC—Mayor Adrian M. Fenty and DC Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Clarence Carter today announced policy initiatives targeted at ending chronic homelessness in the District of Columbia. The administration's plan includes the creation of the Housing First Fund and a permanent supportive housing initiative administered by DHS to house more than 400 homeless people in six months and consolidate existing emergency shelter facilities to better address the social service needs of homeless individuals in the District of Columbia, enabling them to move beyond homelessness.

"What we are proposing is a new approach to serving our chronically homeless neighbors," said Mayor Fenty. "The systems of the past have not brought us closer to ending this humanitarian crisis in our city. This is an exciting initiative and we look forward to working closely with community stakeholders to make it successful."

The "Housing First" approach is an intervention to address homelessness by first stabilizing an individual in housing while providing comprehensive services to address the issues that are at the root of that person's homelessness. DHS will work together with other District agencies on site acquisition and development of property for housing with supportive services. Permanent supportive housing is long-term, community-based housing that has supportive services for homeless persons with disabilities.

The District has approximately 1750 chronically homeless residents and 191 families in emergency shelter. This dedication of resources will allow the city to decrease the District's chronically homeless population by 23 percent and decrease family homelessness by 42 percent.

Housing First: Permanent Supportive Housing Plan

DHS, the District's lead agency in addressing the needs of homeless individuals and families, is implementing a person-centric approach to the delivery of human services. This is a significant departure from the way the District has delivered homeless services

in the past. Rather than simply meeting the survival needs of individuals and families by providing blankets and shelter, the agency will engage each individual in our system with comprehensive case management intended to address the root causes of homelessness and provide individuals with what they need to move beyond homelessness.

The draft permanent supportive housing plan being introduced by Mayor Fenty will enable DHS to rapidly provide supportive services to the most vulnerable homeless residents and families and move them into scattered-site and site-based permanent supportive housing units throughout the city. There will be a 45-day public comment period to ensure all stakeholders are able to weigh in on this plan.

The administration's plan will house 400 of the city's most vulnerable, longest-stayers in the District's shelter system over a six-month period with a goal of decreasing the need for emergency shelter beds. This decreased need will allow the city to:

- Close Franklin School Shelter by October 1, 2008
- Bring Gales School Shelter (at least 125 beds) on line to provide emergency shelter for men. This facility will be owned and operated by Central Union Mission without a District subsidy
- Acquire Georgia Ave Property for mixed income housing development including 50 units of permanent supportive housing
- Move Harriet Tubman Shelter from the cafeteria at the former DC General Hospital to Building 9 with:
 - i. Case management and supportive services on site to include housing placement specialist
 - ii. Transition from 12 hour to 24 hour shelter with 3 meals a day provided.

Creation of Housing First Fund in DHS

In order to establish a mechanism by which the District can direct funding from the disposition of properties through lease or sale into a fund for the purpose of providing supportive housing, Fenty proposed the creation of the Housing First Fund to be housed in the Department of Human Services. The fund is also expected to be a clearinghouse for financial support from foundations and private institutions interested in supporting the District's efforts to end homelessness.

Success stories here in the District and in other jurisdictions have demonstrated that housing is an important social service intervention. Once an individual is in a stable living environment that person is in a better position to address the mental health, addiction, educational and other challenges that are at the root of their homelessness. The Housing First Fund will enable the Department of Human Services to rapidly provide the housing and service interventions to appropriately address homelessness.

Allocation of resources to this fund will advance the District's commitment to provide the 2,500 units of permanent supportive housing provided by the Homeless No More Plan.

Spending in 2009

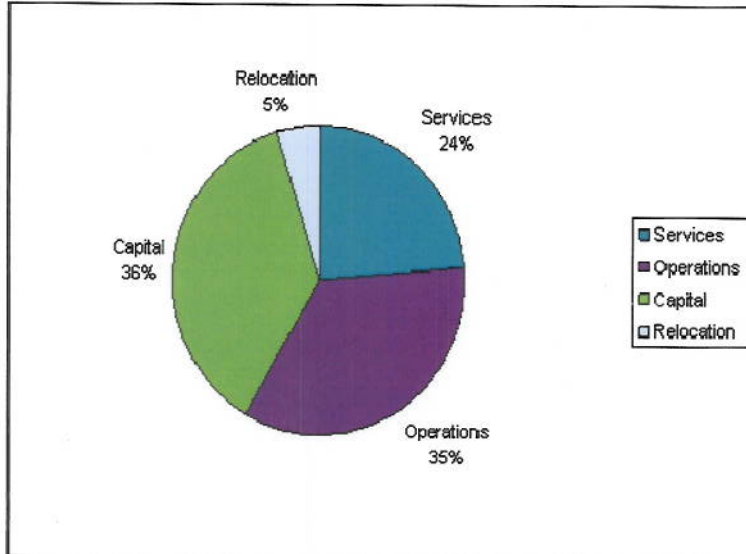
Reoccurring Funding 12 months

	Operations	Supportive Services	Families/ Individuals served	Total
Family	\$ 18,192	\$ 13,000	80	\$2,495,360
Single	\$ 13,080	\$ 8,800	400	\$8,752,000
			480	\$11,247,360

One time costs

Description	Persons	Cost	Total
Moving expenses and furniture allowance for singles	400	1800	\$720,000
Moving expenses and furniture allowance for families	80	2500	\$200,000
Capital expenditures (site acquisition and development for PSH)			\$7,080,000
Total			\$8,000,000

Distribution of funding



Cost: \$ 19.2 million

\$ 11.2 million reoccurring

Housing and services for 80 families at 31,192 per family and 400 individuals at 21,880 per individual per year

\$ 8.0 million one time

Primarily for site acquisition and development.

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GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES



Office of the Director

April 2, 2008

Dear Stakeholders:

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is pleased to release the District's draft Permanent Supportive Housing Plan for public comment. We worked closely with the Corporation for Supportive Housing on the development of the plan and adopted their recommendations as the District's draft plan.

The plan is the District's roadmap for the implementation of our commitment in the Homeless No More Plan to create 2,500 units of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and families with long histories of homelessness by 2014.

The development of this plan was informed by a workgroup of the Interagency Council on Homelessness. The workgroup had significant representation from all of the plan's stakeholder groups. We value the input of our community stakeholders and will accept comments over the next 45 days, before finalizing the plan.

During a time of decreasing fiscal resources, the District is making a significant commitment to the fulfillment of this plan by creating a \$ 19.2 million Housing First Fund in the Department of Human Services in the FY 2009 budget. This fund will create the mechanism by which the District will draw resources toward the fulfillment of this important initiative.

DHS acknowledges the excellent work of the Corporation for Supportive Housing in the development of the plan.

Please send comments to:

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Sincerely,

Clarence H. Carter
Director